

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 21 have been canceled. Claims 1-6, 8-20, and 22-27 remain present in this application. In the present Office Action: claims 9, 10, 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,327,548 (hereinafter “Hardell”); claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardell in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,740,349 (hereinafter “Hasbun”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,867,702 (hereinafter “Lee”); claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardell in view of Hasbun; claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardell in view of Hasbun and U.S. Patent No. 6,571,347 (hereinafter “Tseng”); claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardell and Tseng; and claims 4, 7, 11, 15, 20, 21, 26, and 27 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

While Applicant does not agree with many of the positions taken in the present Office Action, Applicant has nevertheless amended the independent claims to include subject matter which Applicant believes was indicated to be allowable. Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 22 are now allowable. Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 2-6, 8, 10-15, 17-20, and 23-27 are also allowable for at least the reason that the claims depend upon allowable claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicant would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 01-0365.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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